'Apparel Parks for Exports Schme'. The Project Approval Committee (PAC), constituted under the guidelines of the Scheme, has accorded in-principle approval to the State Government's project proposal for setting up an Apparel Park at Bangalore. The PAC has also decided that the project proposal for setting up Apparel Park at Bellary may be taken up for consideration at an appropriate stage later on after evaluating the success achieved in implementing already sanctioned Apparel Park project at Bangalore. The State Government has taken positive steps towards implementation of the Bangalore Apparel Park project and has acquired land for the same. However, the sale of plots and setting up of units is yet to take place.

Handloom weavers in the Country

927. SHRI SK. KHABIR UDDIN AHMED: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of handloom weavers in the country, State-wise and the number of sick handloom units in the States;

(b) whether Government is providing any financial assistance to the handloom weavers; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) As per the joint census of handlooms and powerlooms conducted during 1995-96, there were 65.51 lakh persons engaged in the handloom weaving and its associated activities in the country. Statewise details is given at Annexure-I.

Due to the highly decentralized nature of the handloom industry and the seasonal activities in various parts of the country, it is not feasible to maintain data relating to sick handloom units.

(b) and (c) Government of India is providing financial assistance to the handloom weavers and their organizations for the overall development of handloom sector and the welfare of the handloom weavers through the implementation of various schemes which includes:

(1) Design Development & Training Programme

(2) Marketing Promotion Programme

(3) Mill Gate Price Scheme

(4) Deen Dayal Hathkarga Prothsahan Yojana

(5) Workshed-cum-Housing Scheme

(6) Weavers Welfare Scheme

(7) Handloom Export Scheme

(8) Scheme for Reimbursement of CENVAT on Hank Yarn

(9) Implementation of Handloom (Reservation of Articles for Production) Act, 1985.

An amount of Rs. 145.83 crore was released by the Central Government under the above Schemes in 2002-03.

Setting up handloom Market Complexes

928. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set up Market Complexes for the development of handloom sector in the Southern States;

(b) if so, the number of such complexes so far set up, State-wise;

(c) whether any target has been fixed for the Tenth Five Year Plan in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(e) what other measures Government have taken for the development of handloom sector in Southern States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A total of seven such Marketing Complexes have been set up in the country. The Statewise details are as follows:

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Place in which the Marketing Complex was set up
1.	Gujarat	Ahmedabad
2.	Madhya Pradesh	Indore
3.	Maharashtra	Navi Mumbai
4.	Rajasthan	Jaipur
5.	Uttar Pradesh	Kanpur
6.	West Bengal	Kolkata
7.	Andhra Pradesh	Hyderabad